

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and allowance in view of the foregoing Amendment and the following Remarks are respectfully requested.

Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 2-13, 21, 22 and 38 contain allowable subject matter. Claim 2 has been amended above so as to be presented in independent form. Claim 11 has also been amended so as to be presented in independent form. Claim 1 has been cancelled accordingly. Therefore, claims 2-13 should now be allowed. Further, claim 20 has been amended to incorporate the allowable limitations of dependent claim 21 and claim 21 has been cancelled. Finally, claim 37 has been amended to incorporate the allowable limitations of dependent claim 38 and claim 38 has been cancelled. Therefore, claims 20-22, 29-35 and 37 should all now be allowed along with claims 2-13.

The Examiner's prior art rejections are noted but have been mooted by the amendments presented above.

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: 

Michelle N. Lester
Reg. No. 32,331

MNL:sjg
901 North Glebe Road, 11th Floor
Arlington, VA 22203-1808
Telephone: (703) 816-4000
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100